

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 17 as follows:

a² 17. (Amended) The router table fence of claim [1] 16, wherein the safety shield is made of polycarbonate plastic. (17)173

Please add the following new claims:

3 I -- 27. (New) The router table fence of claim 1, wherein in use substantially the entire top spar is positioned higher above a router table than the bottom spars. --

-- 28. (New) The router table fence of claim 1, wherein in use the bottom spars rest on a router table and the top spar rests on the bottom spars and does not contact the router table. --

-- 29. (New) The router table fence of claim 1, wherein the top spar is positioned substantially entirely above the two bottom spars. --

-- 30. (New) The router table fence of claim 29, wherein the bottom spars each have a top face substantially orthogonal to the bottom spar front faces, and the top spar has a bottom face substantially orthogonal to top spar front face, wherein the top faces of the bottom spars and the bottom face of the top spar engage so that the bottom spars can slide relative to the top spar. --

-- 31. (New) The router table fence of claim 30, wherein the bottom face of the top spar comprises at least one rib and the top face of each of the bottom spars comprises at least one depression, wherein the at least one rib fits into the at least one depression of each bottom spar. --

I -- 32. (New) The router table fence of claim 30, wherein the bottom face of the top spar comprises at least one depression and the top face of each of the bottom spars comprises at least one rib, wherein the at least one rib of each bottom spar fits into the at least one depression of the top spar. --

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-- 33. (New) The router table fence of claim 30, wherein the top face of each bottom spar comprises a slot and the connectors comprise at least two screws, wherein each screw is positioned at least partially through the top spar and substantially parallel to the front face of the top spar and protrudes from the bottom face of the top spar and is positioned in the slot in the top face of one of the bottom spars. --

-- 34. (New) The router table fence of claim 1, wherein each of the spars is an extrusion. --

-- 35. (New) The router table fence of claim 1, wherein each of the spars is aluminum. --

-- 36. (New) The router table fence of claim 1, wherein each of the spars is substantially the same width. --

-- 37. (New) The router table fence of claim 1, further comprising a plastic end cap attached to an end of at least one spar. --

-- 38. (New) The router table fence of claim 37, wherein the cross-sectional shape of the at least one spar forms a slot having an arcuate wall, wherein the plastic end cap is attached to the end of the at least one spar by at least one screw received in the slot. --

-- 39. (New) The router table fence of claim 1, wherein the fence has a back side and separation of the opposed ends of the two bottom spars by a selected distance defines

an opening between the opposed ends of the two bottom spars through which workpiece chips and dust may be removed from the back side of the fence. --

-- 40. (New) The router table fence of claim 39, further comprising a dust chute attachable to a vacuum positioned at the opening on the back side of the fence. --

-- 41. (New) The router table fence of claim 1, wherein the each of the bottom spars further comprises a back face and the top spar further comprises a back face and a top face, wherein each of the bottom spar front and back faces and the top spar front, back, and top faces has a longitudinal tee slot therein. --

-- 42. (New) The router table fence of claim 1, further comprising a safety shield for attachment to the top spar, wherein the safety shield comprises a substantially transparent shield member. --

-- 43. (New) The router table fence of claim 1, further comprising a first structure on a first face of one of the bottom spars for engagement with a second structure on an opposite face of the top spar so that the bottom spar can slidingly engage the top spar with at least a second face of the bottom spar maintained in substantially the same plane as a second face of the top spar, wherein each spar is fabricated of extruded aluminum having a generally rectangular cross-sectional shape. --

-- 44. (New) The router table fence of claim 1, wherein a contact surface for a workpiece is associated with each of the two bottom spars, and the two contact surfaces are alternatively positionable in the same plane or in parallel planes. --

-- 45. (New) A router table fence for use with a router tab top, comprising:
a. two bottom spars, each fabricated of extruded aluminum having a generally rectangular cross-sectional shape, each having substantially the same width,

and each comprising a front face, a top face comprising at least one depression, and a back face, wherein the front, top, and back faces of each of the two bottom spars has a longitudinal tee slot therein;

b. a top spar substantially the entirety of which is positioned above the two bottoms spars when the fence is in use, wherein the top spar has a first length and is fabricated of extruded aluminum having a generally rectangular cross-sectional shape and having a width substantially the same as the width of each of the two bottom spars, wherein the top spar comprises a front face, a top face, and a back face, each face having a longitudinal tee slot therein and wherein the top spar further comprises a bottom face having at least one rib, wherein the at least one rib fits into the at least one depression of each bottom spar so that the bottom spars can slide relative to the top spar; and

c. connectors for attaching the bottom spars to the top spar so that:
(i) the front faces of each of the top spar and the two bottom spars are in substantially the same plane and
(ii) opposed ends of the two bottom spars may be positioned either:
(x) abutting, or
(y) separated by a selected distance to define an opening
between the opposed ends of the two bottom spars through which workpiece chips and dust may be removed from a back side of the fence. --

END